

FINAL

Environmental Impact Statement for the Eagle Butte West Coal Lease Application WYW155132



Casper Field Office

August 2007



MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

BLM/WY/PL-07/031+1320



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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August 22, 2007

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared this Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to document and disclose the results of an environmental analysis of an application received by BLM to lease a tract of Federal coal, the Eagle Butte West Tract, to the Eagle Butte Mine in the Wyoming Powder River Basin. A copy of this document is provided for your review. The Final EIS may also be reviewed on the BLM Wyoming website at: <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/cfodocs/eaglebutte-westcoal.html>.

Copies of the Final EIS are also available for public inspection at the following BLM offices:

Bureau of Land Management
Wyoming State Office
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Bureau of Land Management
Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, WY 82604

The Draft EIS was published in October 2006 and the 60-day comment period on the draft document ended on December 19, 2006. A formal public hearing on this application to lease Federal coal was held at 7:00 p.m. on November 14, 2006, at the Clarion Hotel, 2009 South Douglas Highway, Gillette, Wyoming. The purpose of the hearing was to receive comments on the proposed coal lease sale, on the fair market value, and on the maximum economic recovery of the Federal coal resources included in the tract. Two individuals presented comments at the hearing and eight comment letters were received by the BLM on the Draft EIS.

BLM has prepared a separate document entitled *Supplementary Information on the Affected Environment in the General Analysis Area for the Eagle Butte West Coal Lease Application EIS* in addition to the EIS. This document, which is available on request, includes more detailed site-specific information about the potentially affected resources included in the study area for the Eagle Butte West Tract.

A 30-day review period on this Final EIS will commence on the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. BLM will also publish a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. Press releases will be submitted to local and state media outlets once the notice is published to notify the public of the final date comments will be accepted. All comments received will be considered in preparation of the Record of Decision (ROD) for this EIS.

If you wish to comment on the Final EIS, your comments should relate directly to the document. We request that you make your comments as specific as possible and that you cite the location or locations in the document on which you are commenting. The agencies involved in preparing this Final EIS are required to respond in the ROD to all substantive comments submitted on the Final EIS. Substantive comments should:

1. Give any new information that could alter conclusions;
2. Show why or how analysis or assumptions in the Final EIS are flawed;
3. Show errors in data, sources, or methods; or
4. Request clarifications that bear on conclusions.

Opinions or preferences will not receive a formal response. However, they will be considered and included as part of the BLM decision making process.

This Final EIS was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and applicable regulations, and other applicable statutes, to address possible environmental and socioeconomic impacts that could result from this project. This Final EIS is not a decision document. Its purpose is to inform the public and the agency decision makers of the impacts of leasing the Eagle Butte West Tract of Federal coal to the existing Eagle Butte Mine in the Wyoming Powder River Basin and to evaluate alternatives to leasing the Federal coal included in the tract as applied for.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the address listed below during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and will be published as part of the Final EIS. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comments, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Please send written comments to Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, Attn: Nancy Doelger, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. Written comments may also be e-mailed to the attention of Nancy Doelger at "casper_wymail@blm.gov". E-mail comments must include the name and mailing address of the commenter to receive consideration. Written comments may also be faxed to (307) 261-7587.

If you have any questions or would like to obtain a copy of the supplementary information document or additional copies of this Final EIS, please contact Nancy Doelger at (307) 261-7627, or at the above address.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Bennett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "R".

Robert A. Bennett
State Director